

Tokarchuk reigns as Huskies sweep Alberta

by Alan Small
Huskies 70 Alberta 65
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And frustration sets in. That is what the Bears basketball club is experiencing now after two losses to the Saskatchewan Huskies, the top hoop club in the nation.

The inside game of the Huskies, led by national team center Byron Tokarchuk, dominated the young Bear posts throughout both games. When the sharp-shooting Bear guards missed an outside shot, the board would invariably go to someone in a green jersey. Usually the one with the number 51 on it.

"Byron is vastly improved," Bear head coach Don Horwood said, "you have to tie a rope around him to stop him."

Unfortunately for the Bears, this was basketball, not rodeo. What happened was Tokarchuk scored 23 Friday and 32 Saturday. He was the dominant figure on the court.

The whole Huskie inside game clicked for them on Friday as the Bears seemed powerless to stop them.

The Bears got off to a great start in the first, as two three pointers by guards Sean Chursinoff and Dave Youngs put them up 6-0, which they stretched out to 14-4 five minutes into the game.

It was all downhill for the Bears, as by halftime, the Huskies cut the spread to six points. Halfway through the second half, they were up by four, and with one minute left, it was 68-58 in favor of the falldancers.

"We didn't get the production inside," Horwood said. That was the case, as the Bears' three inside men, Scott McIntyre, Mark Baker, and freshman Rick Stanley were outscored by their Huskie counterparts, Tokarchuk, Sheldon Ryma, and Kirk Jones, 44-15. Many clubs would have had their ears yelld

off by the coach after the Huskies performance in the first half, but not this club.

"There's not a lot you can tell them that they haven't heard before," Huskie head coach Guy Vetric said of his veteran laden squad, "the players decided this game."

Youngs led the Bears with 22 points, as he hit five three pointers, while Chursinoff tossed 15. Besides Tokarchuk's 23, Huskie guard David Karwacki scored 15. The second game was dominated by the Huskie inside game again, this time, on the Bear side of the court. The Bear defence looked helpless against the Huskie attack. But the Huskies barely pulled out the overtime victory anyway.

"We just couldn't stop them in overtime," Horwood said, "it's extremely frustrating."

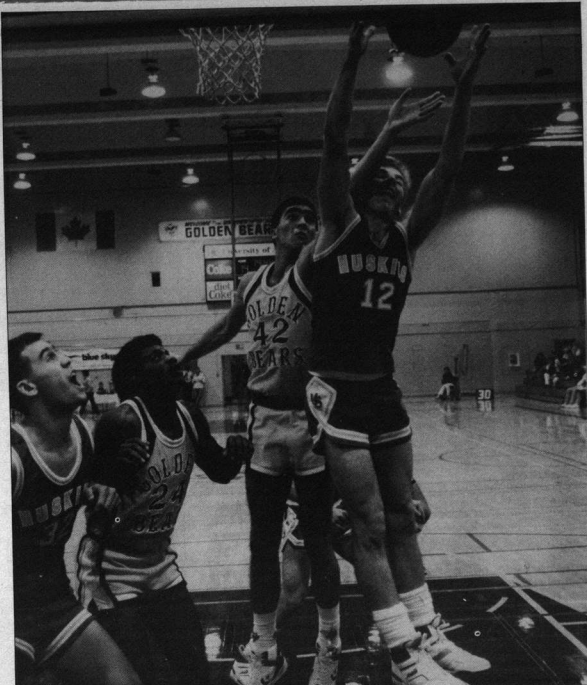
The Bears had the chance for a split, though. With just five seconds remaining in regulation time, Stanley could have sunk both free throws and put it away. He made one, and thus, it was tied.

When it came to overtime however, the Huskies sent the ball inside to Tokarchuk every chance they had. Halfway through the five minute period, they were up by five. "They (Bears) weren't compensating for Tokarchuk, they didn't double him or anything," Vetric said.

Another event that didn't help the Bears was guard Chris Toutant fouling out 17 seconds into the extra frame.

"He (Toutant) had a heck of a game," Vetric praised, "he was hitting three pointers with guys in his face. He just drained them."

The Bears came back from the five point deficit, and with 12 seconds to go, with the Bears down one, Ed Joseph stole the ball but the Huskie defence kept the ball away from the basket, including a



Huskie Greg Jockims (12) and Bear Rick Stanley (42) fight for the rebound.

Photo Rob Galbraith

last second jumper by Stanley, which was rejected by Kirk Jones.

Horwood, whose club took at least five travelling fouls in the first game, was not impressed with the officiating.

"It's frustrating that you can't get calls in your own gym," Horwood stated. Vetric, on the other hand, had little to get mad about, "you never expect any breaks on the

road. The refs were fair and adequate."

The second game was dominated by Tokarchuk who had 32 points, and dominated the overtime.

"The rest of the game isn't important as when it's on the line," Tokarchuk said, "we felt that we would win the game."

"He's a great player," Stanley said, "the guy must weigh 270

pounds, so you have to use your quickness."

Greg Jockims had 19 for the Huskies, while Toutant canned 19, and Youngs scored 16 points for the Golden Bears.

FOUL SHOTS: The 1-5 Bears host their Alumni next weekend...Cliff Rowen did some zone-busting in the second game for the Bears as he scored 13 in the second.

That would be too stupid for even the CFL.

The Eskis win was good for the team — the worst possible outcome for the league. It doesn't help attendance in other cities when there is a perception that the Grey Cup will wind up here most every year somehow.

The most unlikely moment in sports this weekend was Lee Trevino hitting a hole in one for \$175,000 in the Skins Game. Oh yeah!

For real football fans, if you like the Chargers you'd better watch a lot of TV in the rest of the year. After their strike team went 3-0, some people were taking them for real. Forget it. They'll be lucky to beat Houston next week — don't forget their regulars are only 5-3 this year — and they'll miss the playoffs behind the Broncos and Seahawks. Next year the lightning heads will be back below 500 where they belong, and off network TV. Thank God.

On campus, the Bears hockey club warmed up for Calgary by thumping Regina in two games. Unfortunately, Brent Sevryn will be sitting the Dino game out, as he got tossed for fighting on Saturday. Despite Parie Profit's pedigree, Sevryn has been the team's best back-liner in the games I've seen this season. His absence means the Bears will need standout play by their goalie to be close. Look for Darren Turner, the most consistent puckstopper so far. John Krill deserves consideration from

Coach Clare Drake for his play in Friday's game, and he might be the Coaltender-MostLikelyToBeUnbeatable-On-AnyGivenNight.

Curt Brandolini was volcano-hot both games for the Bears, taking two stars, ahead of Sid Cranston. This is despite point production from Cranston that made him a good candidate for Canada West player of the week.

Brando's intensity and skating were the difference between his games and Cranston's. The latter's vicious stick fouls also did not endear him, as he was in the middle of several ugly fencing matches.

Sid doesn't get all the blame of course. The Cougars are the worst team of hackers to visit Varsity Arena this year. A big raspberry to U of R coach Allen Murray. If he taught a little more self-control, maybe his batch of soft-nosed goons wouldn't be 3-11. When you can only kill two penalties out of three, you should try and keep your honkers clean.

The 400-odd fans on Friday night should get a hand themselves, as their vocal support picked the team up when the Cougars were putting them to sleep once or twice. Way to go, and we'll see you next week when Calgary comes to town.

Finally, look for the Maple Leafs to struggle until Wendell Himself gets back later this month. They'll pick it up, then, and finish the year at 600 and first in the Norris.

You read it here first.

Pandas sweep U of S

by Alan Small
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The Panda basketball club finally came through when it counted. They swept the U of S Huskiettes to up their record to 2-4 and will have a shot at the playoffs come 1988.

In the first game, the Pandas controlled right from the start. They led 11-3 six minutes into the game. By half time, the score was 30-19 in favor of the Pandas.

"I've seen us play better," said Panda head coach Diane Hilko, "we had a chance to bury them and we didn't."

Although Alberta didn't bury the Huskiettes, they matched them basket for basket in the second half and won the game by twelve, in a game that was never in doubt. The closest Saskatchewan got to the Pandas was halfway through the second half when they were seven points behind.

Cheryl Galenza led the Pandas with 17 points and five rebounds. Point guard Patti Smith tossed twelve, as the Pandas shot 43% from the field.

The Huskiettes were led by Andrea Karwacki who scored 13 but were anemic on the offensive boards, as they could only grab six rebounds from the Panda side of the court.

"We didn't take those costly fouls," Hilko said. The second game was a lot more scramble for the Pandas, as some hot three-point shooting by Karwacki brought them back from a ten point deficit to almost taking the game.

The Pandas held the Huskiettes off the scoreboard for about eight minutes late in the first half and kept up the pace until the half time, when they led 32-24.

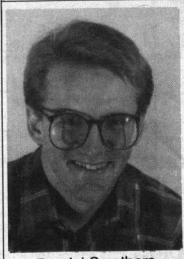
Then Karwacki hit four-for-four from the three-point line to make it close. She had the Panda coaching staff concerned.

"We called a time out and put on a tighter defence on her," Hilko said, "we should be able to make the adjustments right on the court."

Karwacki came up with 19 points on the game, tying for game high with the Pandas Linda Mrkonjic. Patti Smith again came up with a good effort as she scored 16, many from aggressive drives to the basket.

"We've improved a lot since we played them last," Hilko said, "there was no doubt we can beat them."

The two wins were big for the Pandas as 2-4, they can now work for a playoff spot in the new year. The two games with Saskatchewan were a must, as they already lost two of them this year. They also won the season series as they beat the Huskiettes by 15 points, 11 more than they needed.



Randal Smathers

This isn't a Grey Cup story

If you're looking for a Grey Cup column, you came to the wrong place. I only watched the last few minutes of the game on the tube, so I couldn't talk much about it if I wanted to.

I did see one huge blunder in what I did watch that the TV cheerleaders never picked up. Bobo O'Billovich screwed up by going for the 2-point convert. One point means the Eskis need that last-second field goal.

It's gotta make a difference to a kicker knowing that a miss is good for a tie, provided it's long enough. It was nice that the game wasn't decided by getting an incompetence single, though.